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THE EFFECT OF A SUPERHIGH-FREQUENCY ELCTROMAGNETIC FIELD ON THE MEMBRANE POTENTIAL OF SMOOTH MUSCLE CELLS OF THE RAT STOMACH FUNDUS

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[Abstract of article by P. G. Bogach, V. I. Mirumiko, and I. L. Dolgiy, Department of Biophysics, Kiev State University imeni T. G. Shevchenko, Kiev]

[Text] This study concerned the effect of a superhigh-frequency electromagnetic field 5, 10, 15, and 20 minutes in duration on the membrane potential (MP) of smooth muscle cells of the rat stomach fundus in circulating Krebs' solution at 37°C , as well as the behavior of the MP for 6 hours after the field was turned off.

A GZ-30B generator operating in the sawtooth modulation mode at an integral power of 1 mw was used as the microwave energy source (wavelength 8 mm). Smooth muscle cells were irradiated in a special humidified chamber and then placed in a measuring chamber with circulating solution at the indicated temperature. It was demonstrated that the smooth muscle cell MP magnitude did not change significantly during 6 hours. Therefore the MP recorded throughout this time is the most suitable MP value from a physiological point of view.

It was established by microelectrode techniques that the size of the MP of smooth muscle cells in the rat stomach fundus was 35.0 ± 1.5 mv. In response to the superhigh-frequency electromagnetic field the MP magnitude decreased in direct proportion to the quantity of field energy absorbed. The behavior of the smooth muscle MP after the superhigh-frequency field is turned off has its own typical features and depends on the duration of the exposure.

Thus in the second hour after a 5-minute exposure to the superhigh-frequency field the MP returns to its initial value. By the fourth hour it decreases to the value recorded immediately after the field is turned off. In the fifth hour it increases to 25 mv, and then it gradually drops.

Two hours after a 10-minute exposure the MP recovers as well, but not to its initial value. It only reaches 26.0 ± 0.9 mv. Then it reaches a minimum

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(at 3 hours), and in the fifth hour it reaches the initial value. Subsequently it drops rapidly.

The reduction in MP value is more significant after 15- and 20-minute exposures to the superhigh-frequency field than after 10- and 5-minute exposures. The time of partial MP recovery increased somewhat.

When smooth muscle cells were in sodium-deficient Krebs' solution (sodium was substituted by sucrose) a 5-minute exposure to the superhigh-frequency field caused a reduction in the MP to a value 50 percent of the initial value. The MP has only one recovery maximum (at the secon' hour) after the superhigh-frequency field exposure is terminated. These results indicate that sodium participates in mechanisms causing reduction of MP during superhigh-frequency field exposure and after its termination. The possible mechanisms underlying interaction between a superhigh-frequency electromagnetic field and living cells are discussed.

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